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UNITED STATES NAVY
WAR DIARY
OF
ADMIRAL, BLACK SEA



16 MAY, 1942-31 MAY, 1942
PG NUMBER 31511

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1955

Editorial Note:

The translation of this German War Diary was made in London, England, under the guidance of Commander S. R. Sanders, USNR. When his London Office was closed and the translation project was discontinued, much unfinished material was sent to Naval History Division, (OP-29).

Because the dissemination of the data contained in these documents is important, the translations and stencils have not been checked for accuracy of interpretation, phraseology, and spelling of officers' names or geographical names. Distribution under these conditions seems justified because of the excellent reputation of the London personnel and because translators are not available in Naval History Division. Research to correct possible inconsistencies did not warrant the time involved.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Naval History Division
Washington 25, D. C.

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16 May, 1942

Weather forecast
(Constantza):

- ESE winds, force 1, overcast, visibility 7 miles, sea 1, temperature 13° G.

Enemy Situation:

After Kerch was taken, traffic of enemy merchant ships and boats naturally decreased in the Kerch area.

Nevertheless, a fair number of small steamers was still proceeding close to the east coast of the strait. Numerous small vessels were sighted in the eastern ports on the Sea of Azov.

Throughout the day a destroyer patrolled the area off Sevastopol; she was once sighted by air reconnaissance and several times located accurately. Submarine activity in the Crimean area as far as the west coast of the Black Sea increased considerably: 12 submarines were detected and some bearings taken.

More submarines were intercepted in the northeastern Black Sea, where Commander, Light Forces was at sea with 7 minesweepers and 8 M.T.B.s.

Due to inadequate air reconnaissance, no reports were submitted concerning any other forces.

Own Situation:

Bulgarian Area:

No incidents.

Rumanian Area:

I visited the Operations Staff in Eforia with Chief of Staff.

- 0400 The minelaying formation put in to Constantza after carrying out minelaying operation L (see War Diary 15 May).
- 0420 Supply ship "Uta" put out from Bugaz for the south with naval ferry barges Nos. 132 and 143. At 1145 they put in to Sulina. They continued passage to Galatz at 1350.
- 0625 Naval ferry barges Nos. 126 and 137 continued passage to Kherson from Sulina and anchored in Ochakov roads at 1830.
- South Russian Area:
- 0600 Group 1, Danube Flotilla put out from Ochakov for Bugaz to disembark warrant officers and non-commissioned officers. At 1215 the group put in to Bugaz.

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0900- Group 2, Danube Flotilla put out from Ochakov to
1315 search for mines on route Green as far as the
Illichevka minefield gap and back to 46° N. No
mines were swept.

At 0600 during the night of 15/16 May, Mariupol
was heavily bombed. Naval installations were
badly damaged, but no further damage or casual-
ties were reported.

Crimea:

Naval Shore Commander, Crimea reported that Naval
Port Commander, Kerch had arrived in the town at
1600 on 15 May. Kerch has been completely in
German hands since 2000. Up to now, no vessels
have been found. As far as can be seen, berthing
facilities in the harbor have not been destroyed.

Naval Shore Commander, Crimea reported Radar Post
Crimea I (Cape Ili) ready for operations.

Railroads:

Destroyer "Regina Maria" non-operational for 4
days for rudder repairs. Rail set also broken
down: cause and duration of repairs will be re-
ported later.

Land Situation:

No incidents were reported from the coastal area of
1st Army H.Q. (Tanks).

According to the report for the day from 11th Army
H.Q., the remnants of the enemy forces which were
confined to the northeastern tip of Kerch Penin-
sula made desperate counter-attacks against our en-
circling troops. All these attacks were repulsed
at the cost of high enemy casualties. Weak forces
attempted a landing near Csp. Chroni, but they were
scolded off. On the other hand, the village of
Mayak (eastern tip of the peninsula) had again to
be abandoned to the enemy.

Situation:

In teletype Gkdos. 29/12 I A/WO/1900, 15 May,
Army Group South reported that it was not intended
to employ Coastal Defense Flotilla, Sea of Azov
until later. They requested that the necessary
preparations be made for this operation.

RadioGram 1515 was sent subordinating Coastal De-
fense Flotilla again to Naval Shore Commander,
Ukraine, who is to form them up and fit them out
with all speed. Lieutenant Commander Kuster who
was dispatched from here will remain with Naval
Shore Commander, Crimea for the further preparations
for the assignment with 11th Army H.Q.

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17 May, 1942

Weather forecast
(Constantza):

No wind, fair, visibility 25 km., sea 0, temperature 12° C.

Enemy Situation:

Numerous small enemy vessels are proceeding in the eastern bays of Kerch Strait and close to the eastern part of the north coast in the direction of Tomriuk.

Minor activity of naval forces. According to reports of the Air Force, 1 heavy cruiser, 1 destroyer and 9 M.T.B.s put in to Novorossisk about 1000. Photographic evaluation at 1630 revealed that only 1 light cruiser ("Krasny Krim") was lying in the harbor with 1 large destroyer ("Tashkont"), 2 more destroyers, 6 submarines, 2 minesweepers and small vessels. Main Naval D/F Station, Constantza reported continuous lively submarine activity in the area south of the Crimea and in the western Black Sea. Thirteen submarines were detected.

In the area off Sevastopol 1 flotilla leader and another destroyer whose position was assumed to be some 30 miles west of Balaklava were detected. Also some small unidentified vessels.

As on the last few days, several destroyers and a number of minesweepers and M.T.B.s were detected in the northeastern area.

Own Situation:

Bulgarian Area:

No incidents.

Rumanian Area:

1000 The Italian Rear Admiral Bartoldi (representative of the Italian Naval Command with Naval High Command, Naval Staff) arrived at Palas airfield accompanied by Chief of Staff, Naval Group South.

In the forenoon they visited Commanding Admiral, Black Sea and Captain Klatjan, Commander, Rumanian Naval Division. Rear Admiral Giurgescu, C-in-C Rumanian Navy, was also present.

In the afternoon Rear Admiral Bartoldi inspected the Italian naval forces. Commanding Admiral and Chief of Staff, Admiral, Black Sea, Chief of Staff, Naval Group South, Commander, Naval Special Duties Detachment, C-in-C Rumanian Navy, Commander Rumanian Naval Division and C-in-C Rumanian Naval Forces also took part.

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1900 Tugs "Oltul", "Elona" and "Arlon" put out from Sulina to the north with 3 barges and 1 tug, bound for Nikolaiev. They were escorted by gunboat "Sberul" and 3 naval ferry barges.

0600 Commander, Danube Flotilla put out from Bugaz for Ochakov with tug "Romulus" and Group 1. At 1300 the vessels put in to port.

South Russian Area:

0400 Naval ferry barges Nos. 126 and 137 (with life-belts and rescue equipment for Naval Shore Commander, Crimea) put out from Ochakov for Kherson where they arrived at 1200.

Crima:

Naval Port Commander, Kerch reported that during the forenoon the town was shelled several times by enemy surface boats from a range of 9 - 18.5 km. When our anti-aircraft guns began firing, the boats made off developing smoke. No reports were received of any incidents in the rest of the area of Naval Shore Commander, Crimea.

Readiness:

Guardboat "Tronje" non-operational until 29 May because her air pump broke down.

Land Situation:

Despite strong resistance, the attack on the enemy confined north and northwest of Yerikale (the last enemy port of embarkation) made substantial progress.

According to a report from Naval Liaison Officer to 11th Army H.Q., the enemy is bringing up reserves via Kerch Strait.

No incidents were reported from the coastal area of 1st Army H.Q. (Tanks).

18 May, 1942

Weather forecast
(Constantza):

No wind, almost entirely overcast, visibility 10 miles, sea 0, temperature 14° C.

Enemy Situation:

Activity of small enemy vessels observed yesterday continued today in the eastern bays of Kerch Strait. Three small merchant ships and 3 boats were even observed off the northwestern tip of Kerch Peninsula where the enemy is still holding out. Normal enemy shipping was observed in the ports on the Sea of Azov.

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Enemy naval forces were still concentrated near Sevastopol where about 3 or 4 destroyers, at times escorting single steamers and a tanker, were detected by air reconnaissance or Radio Intercept Service. Six submarines were also intercepted in the western Black Sea.

No further information was received on enemy shipping in the port of Sevastopol.

According to a later report, cruiser F has been in the northeastern sea area with 3 submarines since yesterday evening.

There were 2 more submarines off Batum.

Own Situation:

Convoy and Escort Assignments:

1. Owing to fog, the northbound Rumanian (word illegible) convoy was only taken over by Group 2, Danube Flotilla at Bugaz at 1200. The escort vessels "Sborul" and 3 naval ferry barges put in to Bugaz at 1300. At 1805 Group 2, Danube Flotilla put in to Odessa with the convoy.
2. At 0800 steamers "Carpati" and "Oituz" and tanker "Prodromos" put out from Constantza for the north escorted by destroyers "Regina Maria" and "Maresti". Naval ferry barge No. 136, carrying minesweeping gear for Naval Shore Commander, Crimea, is to join the convoy in Sulina. At daybreak on 19 May, the convoy is to be taken over by Group 1, Danube Flotilla.
3. At 1100 the southbound convoy comprising motor vessels "Kassa" and "Kolosvar", steamer "Danubius" and tanker "Le Progres" put out from Ochakov for Sulina escorted by Group 1, Danube Flotilla. The convoy ran as scheduled. At 1900 Group 1, Danube Flotilla delivered the convoy to gunboat "Sborul" and 3 naval ferry barges which had put out from Bugaz. They will continue to the south and are expected to arrive at Sulina about 0200 on 19 May. At 2000 Group 1, Danube Flotilla put in to Bugaz.
4. Owing to fog, the transport group of 1st Special Duties Flotilla - 4 naval ferry barges - could not put out from Khorson for Ochakov until 0800 and therefore failed to meet the southbound convoy (see para. 3). The transport group continued passage without anti-mine escort and put in to Odessa at 1600.

Bulgarian Area:

0300 Special Duties Formation put out from Varna to search for mines on the Varna-Burgas route. No report of results has yet been received.

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It is intended that the Special Duties Formation should put out from Burgas on 19 May to check the area off Sozopol and the route to Sozopol and back and then on 20 May operate from Sozopol again, checking the route as far as Varna.

Romanian Area:

- 0400 Naval ferry barges Nos. 121, 141 and 145 put out from Constantza via Sulina to Skadovsk with reserve torpedoes, emergency repair wagons, equipment etc. for the Italian vessels. Naval ferry barge No. 136 joined them as far as Sulina from where they continued to Ochakov with the northbound convoy (see "Convoy and Escort Assignments," para. 2.).
- 1030 In Eferis a discussion was held at the Operations Division, Admiral, Black Sea with Commander Minicelli, Commander, Italian Naval Command, and Commander, Special Duties Detachment concerning the employment of the Italian vessels. (For report, see Appendix.)
- 1515 U-boat "Delfinul" put out from Constantza on operations. According to the operational order issued by Rumanian Naval Command, she is to operate in the area south of 43° N between $33^{\circ} 30' E$ and $35^{\circ} E$ as I proposed. The operation should last 10 days.

South Russian Area:

No incidents.

Crimea:

Naval Shore Commander, Crimea reported that Naval Port Commander, Korch was fully employed in preparing defenses against possible enemy attacks and that he had therefore temporarily abandoned naval tasks. By order of 11th Army H.Q., most of the Reinforced Coastguard Control Service was withdrawn from the West and south coasts of the Crimea and transferred to Korch Peninsula.

Land Situation:

11th Army H.Q. reported that fierce fighting was still going on for the Veikov foundry (east of Korch) and for the last enemy positions near Kapkan and Yonikale. Every inch of terrain has to be wrested from the enemy forces which are putting up a stubborn defense regardless of their many casualties.

The situation on the Sevastopol front is unchanged. Lively inward and outward bound shipping traffic was observed.

No incidents were reported from the coastal area of 1st Army H.Q. (Tanks).

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19 May, 1942

Weather forecast
(Constantza):

N winds, force 3, overcast, visibility 20 km., sea 2,
temperature 18° C.

Enemy Situation:

In the forenoon, the Air Force reported numerous small vessels in Kerch Strait which were obviously being used to take off Russians from the northeast corner of Kerch Peninsula which was still in Russian hands.

Inward and outward bound destroyers were sighted in the Sevastopol area. Several submarines were detected south of the Crimea and in the western Black Sea. Main Naval D/F Station, Constantza has heard cruiser F off the central part of the east coast, presumably proceeding north, since 0400.

Own Situation:

Convoy and Escort Assignments:

1. At 0400 Group 2, Danube Flotilla and the Rumanian towed convoy which had moored in Odessa during the night continued passage to Nikolaiev, while Group 2, Danube Flotilla returned to Bugaz at 1400.
2. At 0500 steamers "Carpati" and "Oituz" and tanker "Le Progres" (with naval ferry barge No. 136 from Sulina) were picked up by Group 1, Danube Flotilla at the rendezvous south of Bugaz. Destroyers "Regina Maria" and "Maresti" which escorted the convoy up to this point returned to Constantza where they arrived at 1000. The northbound convoy ran as scheduled. When they had completed their escort duty, Group 1, Danube Flotilla put in to Ochakov at 1445, while the 3 supply ships continued passage to Nikolaiev and naval ferry barge No. 136 to Kherson.
3. The southbound convoy which put out from Ochakov also ran as scheduled. At 0400 motor vessels "Kassa" and "Kolesvar" and steamer "Danubius" put in to Sulina with gunboat "Sborul" and 3 naval ferry barges. The supply ships then continued passage upstream. Tanker "Le Progres" which belonged to this convoy is waiting in Sulina roads for further escort to Constantza.

Bulgarian Area:

Supplementary report for 18 May:

The check sweep which was carried out by the Special Duties Formation on the Varna-Burgas route brought no results.

19 May, 1942

The report on the result of the check sweep made during return passage from Burgas to Varna has not yet been submitted.

Special Command, Bulgaria reported that from 1920 to 2040 yesterday the small Turkish steamer "Duadep" (250 tons) which was proceeding with a mixed cargo from Burgas to Istanbul was shelled with 70 rounds of 3.7 cm. tracer ammunition by a submarine off Tescov within territorial waters near the Turkish/Bulgarian border. The steamer was hit 10 times and is now beached, listing heavily, about 180 meters offshore near the Turkish/Bulgarian border. Some of the shells hit the mainland and Turkish guards replied with machine-guns. The crew of 8 men reached Turkish or Bulgarian territory. Anti-submarine operations are intended today by Bulgarian E-boats.

Rumanian Area:

Dockyard questions:

1. Dockyard Control Staff of Rear Admiral Claussen reported that workers who had been arrested by the prefect of Ochakov-North had been freed again upon intervention of Admiral Pais, Under Secretary of the Navy. Salvage work was resumed at the floating dock on the River Bug.

It has transpired that the workers were arrested by the prefect "as a reprisal", presumably with approval of the governor, because the Germans (dockyard) were believed to have towed off a barge laden with scrap-iron from the right bank of the Bug. Thorough investigations are still going on as the affair is to be reported to Marshal Antonescu.

I ordered Dockyard Control Staff to take the following attitude:

- a. Reprisals among Axis forces cannot be countenanced.
- b. The German opinion is that, as a waterway for large ships, the River Bug is entirely in German hands. The boundary is the right river bank of the Bug.
2. The contract with Galatz dockyard (Santierul Naval Galati) was presented to President Antonescu for approval 8 days ago. So far no action has been taken. Rear Admiral Claussen is attempting to obtain the signature through the secretary's office.
3. When Rear Admiral Claussen visited Busila, Minister of Transportation, he urged the speedy completion of repair shops in Constantza.

19 May, 1942

South Russian Area:

0900 Naval ferry barges Nos. 121, 144 and 145 which put out from Constantza yesterday at 0900 with cargo for the Italian forces put in to Skadovsk. No incidents reported during the crossing.

Naval Port Commander, Skadovsk reported that during the night of 18/19 May 3 partisans were captured on Kimburn Peninsula. They stated that they had been landed by a submarine a few days before with orders to occupy Tendra lighthouse and to pick up a radio set to be dropped by a plane. Further investigations will be carried out by 444th Coastal Defense Division which is in command of this area.

Between 2015 on 18 May and 0600 on 19 May, Mariupol had repeated heavy raids. Slight damage to naval property.

Naval Shore Commander, Ukraine reported that 1,915 tons of cargo and 588 soldiers were transported between 19 April and 18 May by the transport group of Coastal Defense Flotilla.

Crimea:

Since 1700 on 15 May, Naval Radio Station, Kerch has been in operation carrying on routine traffic with Simferopol on the Crimea frequency. One of our construction squads managed to contact the Navy in Kerch.

Naval Shore Commander reported from Simferopol that the anti-aircraft protection requested for the defense of the Italian vessels in Yalta in agreement with 4th Air Force and 11th Army H.Q. had been provided: 1 battery of 8.8 cm. guns and 1 battery of 2 cm. guns had been installed. 2 cm. anti-aircraft guns were also brought for Foros, Theodosia and Ak Mechet.

Readiness:

Guardboat "Bechelaren" arrived from Linz and is lying in readiness in Orsova. "Alzei" is in Moldova. No incidents in the Iron Gates area.

Guardboats "Tronje" and "Gernot" are undergoing repairs and routine boiler cleaning in Orsova.

Land Situation:

Heavy fighting was still going on against the enemy in the northeast corner of Kerch Peninsula. The enemy put up a stubborn defense despite heavy casualties, but was pushed back. No important fighting on the Sevastopol front. Shipping traffic in the harbor still lively.

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20 May, 1942

Weather forecast
(Constantza):

W winds, force 4, almost entirely overcast, visibility 20 km., sec 3, temperature 19° C.

Enemy Situation:

There were only slight shipping movements in the eastern part of Kerch Strait and the Air Force observed no important activity in the Sea of Azov.

In the course of the day, activity of enemy naval forces increased considerably. At about 1700 Main Naval D/F Station, Constantza reported the following distribution of forces:

Cruiser F, 1 flotilla leader, 2 destroyers and presumably also C-in-C Fleet aboard an unidentified vessel in the Sevastopol and Crimea area. According to a D/F bearing, cruiser F was in 43° 39' N, 33° 27' E (55 miles south of Capo Khersonese) at 2058.

Submarines detected: 4 in the same area and in the western Black Sea. Several M.T.B.s, minesweepers and patrol boats were intercepted in the vicinity of Sevastopol.

Commander, Light Forces, 3 submarines and 6 minesweepers were heard in the northwestern area.

Finally, cruiser A and the flotilla leader which yesterday was reported as being on passage to the southeast were detected in the southeastern Black Sea from noon onwards.

Enemy intentions cannot be deduced: they may be preparing for energetic reinforcement of Sevastopol or they may be making an indirect attempt to tie down German troops on the Crimea.

Own Situation:

Convoy and Escort Assignments:

- 1100 1. Motor vessel "Sulina" put out from Ochakov to the south escorted by Group 1, Danube Flotilla. Tug "Romulus" and motor minesweeper FR 8 - as far as Bugaz only - and the 3 Rumanian tugs "Oltul", "Elena" and "Arlon" also joined the convoy.
- 1800 FR 8 and "Romulus" put in to Bugaz.
- 1900 The convoy was given over to destroyers "Regina Maria" and "Maresti". Group 1, Danube Flotilla put in to Bugaz. Owing to the weather, Commander, Destroyers ordered the 3 Rumanian tugs back to Bugaz where they put in at 2030.

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- 1940 2. Tanker "Le Progres" put out from Sulina for Constantza with gunboat "Chiculescu".

Bulgarian Area:

Yesterday's check sweep from Varna to Burgas brought no results.

Rumanian Area:

- 1015 Gunboat "Dumitrescu" put out from Constantza for Sulina to relieve gunboat "Chiculescu".

- 1940 "Dumitrescu" put in to Sulina.

While turning, motor vessel "Tisza" was blown on to a sandbank. The rudder, propeller and propeller shaft were damaged. A thorough examination of the ship will be necessary before she can carry out further escort duty.

The 4 Italian E-boats are lying in Constantza harbor ready for transfer to Yalta. According to the weather forecast of Meteorological Station, Constantza, the weather should improve in the afternoon with abating winds for the next 24 hours. The final decision as to whether the boats should be dispatched at 1700 on 20 May will depend on the 1400 weather chart which should be submitted for discussion at 1500.

- 1500 A conference was held concerning the transfer of the Italian E-boats to Yalta and their employment against Russian supply traffic. Commander Mimbelli could not be present as he was in Sevastopol.

Meteorological Station, Constantza predicted favorable weather conditions for the next 24 hours for transfer of the boats to Yalta. The wind abated to N, force 3. The new weather front is not expected to pass until about 0800 on 21 May. The boats were therefore ordered to put out at 1700.

The following route was laid down for their passage to Yalta: From Constantza to Cape George and from there direct to Yalta. The route along the coast with the intermediate ports of Ochakov or Skadovsk was not chosen because this meant a detour of some 200 miles and moreover no suitable aviation gasoline was available in these ports and the boats would have been compelled to replenish their supplies. Short detour via Cape George was recommended for the following reasons:

1. To camouflage the intended passage to Yalta from enemy evening reconnaissance frequently observed off the Rumanian coast.
2. To shorten the route across the open sea.

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3. To give the boats the opportunity to call at Sulina if the weather is bad. Preparations have been made there for refueling.

All commands involved were informed by radiogram of the sailing of the boats:

Naval Shore Commander, Crimea
4th Air Force for Naval Liaison Officer
Air Commander, South
11th Army H.Q. for Naval Liaison Officer.

Copy to:

Group South
Naval Special Duties Detachment

The following directive on the employment of the E-boats against Russian convoy traffic to Sevastopol was transmitted by radiogram:

"Emergency to Italian E-Boat Flotilla
Naval Shore Commander, Crimea

Copy to:

Naval Group South

Supply traffic to Sevastopol should be disrupted by the Italian E-boats.

Reports on the enemy: According to air reconnaissance, Russian convoys approach Cape Sarich on north-easterly course, then proceed to Sevastopol close to the coast. They are escorted by destroyers and the area is patrolled by guard-boats.

No German forces were at sea.

Enemy mines can be expected south and west of Cape Sarich. The boats should not put out from Yalta before nightfall. Operational area should be east of the longitude of Cape Sarich. Torpedoes should be fired at all valuable targets.

Report intentions daily.

Admiral, Black Sea Gkdos. Op. 105 A Op."

This order was issued for the following reasons:

According to air reconnaissance reports, the Russian convoys approach Cape Sarich from the south and then proceed along the coast to Sevastopol. At a range of 5 to 15 miles from the coast there are Russian mine fields west of Cape Sarich as far as Sevastopol. Therefore, as the area west of Cape Sarich must be avoided by the Italian E-boats, operations southwest of Cape Sarich on the convoy approach route seem most likely to bring success.

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- 1710 The Italian E-boats put out from Constantza as scheduled under the command of Commander Mimbelli.
- 1711 4th Air Force and Air Commander, South were requested to provide fighter escort for the 4 Italian E-boats between Cape Sarich and Yalta from daybreak on 21 May.
- 1930 A telephone report was received from Naval Communications Officer, Sulina:
- Sulina: N - W winds, force 6 - 7.
- Italian Radio Station, Constantza transmitted this report to the E-boats at once.

- 2240 Rumanian Naval Detachment reported loud engine noises 9 miles south of Sulina.

It may be assumed that these noises came from the E-boats which were delayed by a sudden deterioration in the weather about 1800 (N winds, in squalls up to force 7). The lights at Sulina will be lit and the batteries will be informed of the passage of our vessels. The pilot boat is waiting off Danube estuary.

South Russian Area:

- 1345 Naval ferry barges Nos. 126 and 137 passed Ochakov from Kherson en passage to Bugaz. At 1940 they put in to Bugaz. A check sweep by mine-exploding vessel No. 191 to widen the shipping channel (southern side) brought no results.

During the night of 19/20 May, 25 bombs were dropped on Berdyansk. No damage to naval property.

- 0530 On 20 May Mariupol was heavily attacked by 9 bombers with fighter escort. Two electric power lines to the dockyard were destroyed, while some of the lathes and the entire welding shop were put out of action. Other important buildings were also damaged. Incendiary bombs and bombs of heavy caliber were used for the first time.

These ever-increasing air attacks necessitate reinforcement of the anti-aircraft protection of Mariupol, as the coastal defense flotilla is formed up there and it also has the only efficient dockyard. 1st Army H.Q. (Tanks) was requested to transfer 1 heavy anti-aircraft battery to this place.

Cri sea:

On 19 May, Eupatoria was raided from 1124 to 2025 and Theodosia from 2015 to 2110. No damage to naval property.

On 19 May, Simferopol reported that special boats transported by railroad from Italy had arrived. Transportation to Yalta was intended for 20 May.

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Nothing to report from the Iron Gates.

Readiness:

Motor minesweeper FR 8 again operational.

Land Situation:

No incidents in the coastal area of 1st Army H.Q. (Tanks).

Destruction continued of the last enemy forces which were still defending stubbornly in the northeast corner of Kerch Peninsula. In addition to 10,000 prisoners, the enemy lost almost 5,000 dead. No important actions on the Sevastopol front except artillery activity.

21 May, 1942

Weather forecast (Constantza):

NW winds, force 3, fair, visibility 20 km., sea 2, temperature 16° C.

Enemy Situation:

The Air Force again confirmed the great number of small vessels (sometimes 30 - 50 and more) in the ports on the Sea of Azov, Yeisk, Akhtari and Terriuk.

Radio Intercept Service also reported the same distribution of naval forces as yesterday.

Own Situation:

Convoy and Escort Assignments:

The southbound convoy with motor vessel "Sulina" ran as scheduled.

- 0450 "Sulina" put in to Constantza with destroyers "Regina Maria" and "Marcostii".
- 1930 Motor vessel "Tisza" and tug "Enzerau" put out from Sulina to the north escorted by gunboats "Stihi" and "Dunitrescu" and torpedo boat "Sborul".

Bulgarian Area:

- 0900 Three Bulgarian E-boats put out from Varna to the south for anti-submarine operations in the area off the Bulgarian south coast as far as the Turkish frontier where the Turkish steamer "Duadep" was attacked by an enemy submarine on 18 May. In teletype Gkdes. 2837 dated 19 May, Naval Group South reported that the steamer was again manned by the crew after the submarine made off. The engine is in order. Measures were taken for unloading the cargo.

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Check sweep by the Rumanian minesweeping formation in the area between Sozopol and Zarebo (south of Burgas). No mines were swept.

Rumanian Area:

- 1254 Naval Communications Officer, Sulina reported: 3 Italian E-boats anchored off the coast. The pilot boat could not go out because of the rough sea. The fourth boat which was sighted at 2300 on 20 May for the last time seems to be missing. Three ferry barges put out from Sulina to search for her.
- 0215 Air Commander, South reported that no fighter forces would be available.
- 0618 A teletype was received from Naval Signal Station, Sulina: "Italian E-boats MAS 571, 572 and 573 put in at 0515."
- 0730 A Most Immediate radiogram was transmitted to
Naval Shore Commander, Crimea
4th Air Force for Naval Liaison Officer
11th Army H.Q. for Naval Liaison Officer
Air Commander, South
Special Duties Detachment
Group South.
"Secret - "Panthersprung" abandoned owing to the weather. New start from Sulina will be reported."
- 0933 Naval Signal Station, Sulina reported: "The fourth E-boat has been sighted in the south."
- 0957 The boat entered Sulina.
- 1030 The 3 naval ferry barges which were detailed to assist her put in to Sulina.
- The unexpected bad weather demonstrates the difficulties and unreliability of weather forecasts in the Black Sea area. This is now even worse without the Turkish weather forecasts which we have not had for some time. Experience has shown that direct passage of the E-boats from Sulina across the Black Sea to Yalta could only be justified in very good weather. Since on the one hand weather conditions during the next few days cannot be expected to be good but on the other hand transfer of the boats to Yalta is urgently required, the boats must sail close to the coast so that at any time they can call at an emergency port in case of a sudden change in the weather (see War Diary 20 May, 1500). Measures were therefore adopted to provide fuel in Skadovsk and Ak Mechet. Arrival of aviation gasoline in these places can be expected in about 4 or 5 days.

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Inspection of the Italian E-boats in Sulina and a discussion with Commander Mimbelli revealed that, after minor overhauls, 2 boats would be ready to leave on the evening of 22 May. The other 2 boats will require about 5 days for repairs. One damaged the hull above the waterline on ramming a seamark and the other has a damaged propeller with a loose shaft.

The following was laid down at a conference with Commander Mimbelli:

The decision as to whether the 2 boats which will be ready for operations on the evening of 22 May should proceed alone and, if so, on which route from Sulina to Yalta will depend on the weather on 22 May and the weather forecast. Commander Mimbelli awaits further orders.

- 0545 Rumanian tugs "Oltul", "Elena" and "Arlon" put out from Bugaz for the south. At 1215 they put in to Sulina.
- 1155 Supply Ship "Uta" put out from Sulina for Bugaz.
At 1315 "Uta" observed an explosion about 1,000 meters on the starboard quarter about 12 miles northwest of Sulina. Cause unknown.
- 1600 About 8 miles southwest of Cape Burnas, "Uta" was attacked by 3 bombers which also machine-gunned her at low level. Fifteen bombs were dropped in 3 approaches. Splinters and machine-gunfire killed 3 men and wounded 4 seriously and 4 slightly. The steering gear was damaged and splinters damaged the hull at the waterline.
Upon "Uta"s first report of the air raid, 3 naval ferry barges were dispatched to the north, while Commander, Danube Flotilla also put out from Bugaz with motor minesweepers F31, 4 and 7.
Two flying boats sent from Constantza picked up the 4 seriously wounded men and brought them to Nomaia.
- 2015 "Uta" put in to Bugaz escorted by 3 motor minesweepers (F3). When it was learned that Danube Flotilla had gone to meet "Uta", the 3 naval ferry barges which put out from Sulina were ordered to return.
- 1000 Naval ferry barges Nos. 126 and 137 put out from Bugaz to the south. At 1700 they put in to Sulina.
Transfer of tug "Romulus" from Bugaz to Sulina was reported without time of origin.
No mines were swept by mine-exploding vessel No. 191 off Ochakov.
- 0830 Skadovsk was bombed by a single plane. Six light bombs were dropped. No damage, 2 duds.

CONFIDENTIAL

21 May 1942

1154 There was a second attack by 3 twin-engineined planes from an altitude of 3 - 4,000 meters. 18-20 bombs were dropped. They landed in the vicinity of the harbor entrance and as far as 600 meters to the east. Only splinters landed in the harbor area. No damage or casualties.

From 0925 to 0945, 2 twin-engineined bombers with German markings and yellow wing-tips attacked the battery positions near Ochakovka (some 15 miles south of Mariupol) and a nearby fish-salting factory. Light bombs were dropped and planes also used machine guns. No military damage.

Crimea:

From 0847 to 1030aporit was raided. No damage was reported.

Simferopol reported on the passage of the Italian special boats to Kalta.

No incidents at the Iron gates.

Readiness:

Supply ship "Voda" non-operational.

Italian boats 11571 and 573 non-operational until 22 May,
13 572 and 574 non-operational until 26 May.

"Delfin 5" - German Special Forces Detachment - was commissioned on 16 May.

Land Situation:

In the northeastern corner of Kerch' Peninsula only small enemy groups are still holding out and their destruction is imminent. No important fighting on the Sevastopol front.

Traffic continued in the harbor, but accurate observations were difficult because of artificial smoke.

22 May 1942

Weather forecast (Constantza):

SE winds, force 2, almost entirely overcast, visibility 20 km., sea 1, temperature 17° C.

Sea Situation:

The number of small enemy vessels (and some even smaller than previously reported in the ports of the Sea of Azov) has increased.

slightly less activity of the Russian Fleet.

Cruiser F was reported as proceeding to Kerch'. According to visual observation, 1 heavy cruiser (probably L) was said to have put in to Sevastopol with 2 destroyers. Confirmation not yet received.

22 July 1942

According to a report from a reliable agent, no ships have been taken in over-night by submarine forces for last pol. Recent lively activity of naval forces suggests that such reinforcements have already been landed under cover of darkness.

Sea situation:

Supply traffic:

1. The northbound convoy comprising motor vessel "Mizan" and tug "Mernu" ran as scheduled. The convoy was rallied by Group 2, which left the rendezvous south of Kruse. The 3 mission escort vessels returned to Varna where they put in at 1200.

Ochakov reported to the "Mizan" and "Angeru" passed by at 1240 on passage to Odessa. Group 2, which followed which was to escort steamer "Mizan" and "Izur", taller "Prokrov" and naval ferry boat No. 136 from Ochakov to Odessa had to postpone this assignment to 23 July because of the weather. The boats put in to Ochakov.

2. At 0945 the report arrived of 1st Special Missions Flotilla (naval ferry boats) that left Braillass. For Anderson there they put in at 3000.

Air raid incident:

No incidents.

Aviation news:

At 1025 1 night bomber attacked the town district of Bulgan. Four bombs were dropped. No military damage.

1200 Tug "Normulus" put in to Varna from Rumania with coal.

South mission news:

Ochakov reported that mine-sweeping vessel No. 101 had cleared the area off Novorossiisk. No mines were swept.

From about 6 p.m. afternoon strong forces of enemy planes approached Novorossiisk but were repulsed by anti-aircraft guns which were displaced there recently.

Crimea:

For action III (Crimea, 5 miles south-southeast of Yalta) was reported ready to operate.

No incidents in the area of naval shore Committee, Crimea.

Admiralty:

11th Army G.C. reported no important fighting on the Sebastopol front.

22 Aug 1942

On March 2 in spite the enemy is still resisting, although encircled in the rocky terrain of Achim-shka where there are many caves. According to statements of deserters, there are several thousand men there. Their resistance should be broken by blasting the entrances to the caves.

1. C-in-C to report from the coastal area of Istankov . . . (Tanks).

23 Aug 1942

Weather forecast (Constanța):

Winds, force 6, no cloud, visibility 25 km., sea 3, temperature 19° C.

Army situation:

Much less activity of enemy shipping and naval forces compared with the last few days. Air reconnaissance sighted a convoy consisting of 1 medium merchant ship, 1 destroyer and 1 patrol vessel, heading for Odessa, 40 km. south of N. At. About 2000 cruiser was detected at sea in an unidentified position. Radio intercept service also detected six 1. destroyers and submarines. C-in-C Fleet was said to be in or en passage to Sevastopol.

Own situation:

Supply traffic:

- 0700 1. Group 2, which left Chakov for Odessa with steamers "Arkinia" and "S. Izburg", tugboat "Molromos" and naval ferry boat No. 136. At 1200 they put in to Odessa.

Owing to the weather, the convoy with steamer "Mar Ferdinand" which was meant to return to Chakov had to be postponed for 2½ hours.

- 0730 2. Tanker "Teodorovs", which put out from Constantza at 1900 on 22 Aug to the north, put in to port in snowbound bay tugboat "G. Niculescu". At 1805 the unit returned to Constantza.

Since se. transport began was restricted - 20 April to 30 Aug - 57,000 tons have been transported from Constantza, the tonnage going to Odessa, Kholmogory, Orel, etc. On return passage, 3,000 tons of service supplies have been transported from the south Russian areas.

All the convoys run without loss. This was especially pleasing in view of the heavy enemy countermeasures by submarines and planes.

Political front:

Owing to bad weather, Social Affairs' Committee informed the check sweep will start.

03 Aug 1942

0900 On pass over our port most pol, the surface submarine "U-504" (500 t tons) was sunk by a surfaced anti-submarine which fired 3 torpedoes. The third hit the stern so that she was soon afloating approximately 1/2 mile offshore. The crew was rescued. At 3 miles off the shore in the area S of Laredo, 3 balloon A/S units sighted the surfaced submarine for a short time and closed her without result.

Luftwaffe areas:

The corridor between the Hermann Göring Works and the neutrals "Kale" village ("Kletz") was seized in Dickendorf: see "Armerie" 1.

Until further notice, 16th Luftwaffe Reserve Flieger, Kletz is assigned to defend Dickendorf L.A. The planes have been prepared ready for operations. The flightline is to put one for blockade duty and 1 from 10 hrs 130 and 1'30 and 5 minutes. They are to leave at 0400 on 24 Aug 1942. Lübeck and Danzig.

1215 While on pass over Kletz the 16th Luftwaffe brought provisions to the crews of the 14th Regt, the ground crew "1st Inf" was attacked from the air about 1/2 mile west of Kletz. The plane approached at an altitude of approximately 2,500 meters and dropped 2 bombs of 50 kg onto the dugout.

After minesweeping 112, 3 and 9 put up by 1st Inf to mark the Dickendorf minefield. The assis mine could not be carried because of the cold weather.

Land Mission Areas:

Schleswig reported that minelaying vessel "101" checked the road to Kiel today. 10 miles away.

After being loaded with supplies the 11th Inf, 1st Inf, 1st Artillery Battalion 115 was to be transferred to Kiel by boat to the island of Rügen which protects the 1st Artillery minefield. At 0330 a small ferry boat 1.139 with 1st Artillery, 1st Inf, 1st Inf and 1st Artillery commander aboard put out from Kiel to re-establish a position for the crossing. They returned at 0500.

Unloading of 1st Inf completed at 0500, 1st Inf and 1st Artillery completed. Supply and equipment for the 11th Inf and 1st Inf were such as reserves of rations, 1st Inf repairing tools, etc. which were transferred from 1st Inf from the Skarpe. This was loaded into trucks. A transport follows for Bremervörde at 0500 on 24 Aug.

At 0100 Capt. G. von Cramm, German representative to the naval ferry boat 1130 from the Kiel Canal port of Kiel naval ferry boat co, 1st Inf, 1st Inf and the 1st Inf were damaged by splinters from the heavy iron rod on 02 Aug.

23 Feb 1942

Land situation:

Nothin' to report fr. the coastal area of 1st Army... (miles).

11th Army G.C. reported developments with the local guerrilla groups in the terrain covered with caves near Poltava Ushka.

Sea status:

Motor minesweeper T-3 operational.

24 Feb 1942

Weather forecast (1st inst rtm):

Heavy wind, cloudy, visibility 30 km., sea 0, temperature 15° C.

Air situation:

Heavy activity of enemy naval forces overall. According to radio int'l report reports, submarines were distributed over the entire Black Sea area. Subs detected in the vicinity of Odessa about 2200.

Cruisers P and D were abv. in the eastern part of the Black Sea.

Air reconnaissance M-17 5 SM 16 and no reports on enemy traffic were submitted.

After rapid evaluation of the ports in the Odessa area revealed small shipping of about 40,000 tons in Novorossisk Harbor. The battleship was in port. Otherwise no important changes in the ports.

Own situation:Supply traffic:

- 0400 1. Steamer "Car Ferdinand", and naval ferry barcs No. 136 put out from Odessa to the east escorted by group 2, Danube Flotilla. At 0900 the cargo vessel Ochakov and group 2, Danube Flotilla put in. "Car Ferdinand" continued to Nikolaev and naval ferry barc No. 136 to Kherson.
- 2120 2. Motor vessels "Koson" and "Allesvar", tanker "Le Prores" and steamer "Dnubius" put out from Odessa to the north escorted by flt'g flt "Sibili", torpedo boat "Sborul" and naval ferry barcs Nos. 126, 137 and 138. The ships should be picked up by flt'g escort at the rendezvous south of Bugaz at 0500 on 25 Feb.

Opposition area:

No incidents.

Own area:

- 0855 Turb. ct "Chiculescu" put in to Constantza from Odessa.

24 May 1942

- 000 Naval ferry boats Nos. 132 and 143 and 16th Harbor Defense Flotilla put out from Balaklava for Bulgan. They intended to continue to Sukhovsk via Choklyev on 25 May and to once to Balaklava. Five fast r launches bound for Balaklava will join the convoy as far as Ochakiv.
- 1100 One plane off cited the Bulgan estuary, dropping 3 bombs about 300 meters from the dredger working there. (air. obs.)
- 1700 After a teleph. no discussion with Commander Mihaili, the Bulgan Flotilla was directed to put out from it 1600 with the 2 operational acts in view of the favorable weather forecast.
- 0700 Six Pt. 1400 boats under the command of Commander Mihaili put out for Vait. via Choklyev. The engine of No. 1400's on failed and Commander Mihaili was compelled to return to Bulgan where the boat put in again at 1000.

In view of the changeable weather, it is a real pity that the transfer of the boats was so unsuccessful. Work off Pt. is continuing at least 2 hr 30'. Its ready to put out by tomorrow evening, but because of the condition, the weather has already predicted increasing wind rate now.

South Russian Area:

- 000 An supply ship vessel No. 191 put up from Odessa to check the route to Odessa. She put in to Odessa at 1000.
No mines sight.
- 1430 Commander, 1st Special Duties Flotilla and now 1st Ferry Boats Nos. 121, 144 and 145 put out from Sudzvsk for Bulgan.
The 3 naval ferry boats were unable to leave the right coast of Kerchianitzki Bay as far as off Ilaravka and then approaching the less favorable coast of the Kugaz. The boats should arrive at Bulgan at 1000 of 25 May.

Naval Sh. re Capt. Aker, Ukr. obs reported:

Air raid in Leningrad during the night of 23/24 May. No damage to warships mentioned.

Crimea:

Naval Sh. re Commander, Critch reported several air raids on Kercheshk, Chersones and Saki islands. No damage was reported.

From Obs: Guard boats "Sokolnik" and "Uzey" patrolled the river. No incidents.

Land Operations:

1942. 1 report that the coastal arm of 1st Army N.F. (Units) to Keriants in the Novorossiysk front. The remaining, enemy forces which have withdrawn to the caves in the north west corner of Kerch Peninsula are still fighting. Prisoners and deserters already amount to more than 3,000 men.

24 July 1942

Weather:

The third Italian convoy will be non-operational for 1 or 2 hrs.

25 July 1942

Outer forecast (Constantza):

Moderate, fair, visibility 15 miles, sec. 0, temperature 13° C.

Army situation:

Only a few reconnaissance reports were received today stating that enemy convoy traffic was low.

At 1140 the Air Force reported a convoy consisting of 1 patrol vessel, 1 trawler of 4,000 t dwt and 4 small ships proceeding close to the south of Caucasus coast.

In morning limited and unusual traffic of small ships seemed slight and difficult to plot for traffic evaluation.

Unusual activity of naval forces. No large vessels above flotilla leader type were observed. Obviously, German Naval Forces will have been at sea since 21 July is on his way back off the southern Caucasus coast.

At 0130 1 submarine was reported 20 miles south of Kilya. Five more submarines were reported in the western Black Sea and 2 in the northeastern Black Sea.

Own situation:

Supply traffic:

1. The northbound convoy comprising motor vessels "Kassa" and "Kolosvar", steamer "Danubius" and tanker "Le Progres" ran as scheduled.

At 1430 the convoy was met at the rendezvous south of Bagaz by Group 1, Danube Flotilla. The Romanian naval forces and 3 naval ferry boats which escorted the convoy as far as this point returned to Bulgan and put in there at 1115.

1300 Group 1, Danube Flotilla put in to Bulgan v, while the 4 supply ships continued north to Balaklaiov and Kerson.

2. The second transport group (4 naval ferry boats) put out from Kerson for Odessa and put in there at 1300.

3. Transports "La frescet" and "Stefan" and naval ferry boats nos. 122, 135 and 137 which escorted the transport ships "Elena", "Gheorghe" and "Aurora" (with the Danube transport convoy for Tikh leiev) put out from Bulgan to the north.

Naval front:

During the last few days Russian warships systematically attacked supply traffic between the Iosporus and northern ports. The Turkish steamer "T. foli" was sunk by a Russian submarine off

25 May 1942

dictated on 23 May. These reported attacks on this import traffic - to the Turkish and Bulgarian coasts require active countermeasures. The following proposals are submitted by Mr. Gandy in Air Marshal, 1st Air Officer, M.P. 2911 up:

Subject: Protection of supply traffic between the Asporus and Dardanelles. Report of Russian submarine attacks on shipping close to the Bulgarian and Turkish coasts - recently Turkish see for "Y. fol 1", 500 tons, on 23 May off Achtopl 1 - necessitate increased countermeasures. I therefore propose the following proposal:

1. a. Reinforced and where possible permanent anti-submarine operations by Bulgarian aircraft and torpedoes off between Dardanelles and the Turkish frontier.
- b. Employment of Bulgarian planes in anti-submarine operations in the area off the Bulgarian coast.
De points d.a. and 1.b: Special Compt. 1st Air Officer should examine the possibility of execution of these measures and report results.
2. 1st Air anti-submarine operations in first waters - up to approximately 20 miles from the coast - between Cape Tchilia and the Dardanelles by 1st Air Force which close to the British coast outside territorial waters by special arrangement. 1st Air Force is requested to state their views.
3. Patrol of the area off the Turkish coast by Turkish naval forces. 1st Air Force is requested to examine this matter and take the necessary steps to ensure its execution.

In M.P. 2911 up, 1st Air Group British expressed the following opinion:

"I am afraid the resources available are not sufficient for the minefields off the Bulgarian coast will have to be reinforced by 1st Air anti-submarine forces if they have been discovered. The arrangements with Turkey will be discussed, but chances of success are low."

The views of 1st Air Force are to examine the need for further minefields off the Bulgarian coast to protect supply traffic through the following countermeasures:

"In a cable add'd. M.P. 2961 of 24 May:

Bulgarian submarines mainly take 1st Air off-shore in the vicinity of the Turkish coast and south of it.

If the forward British territorial waters is used recently, many submarines can attack ever where in the route between the coast and 1st Air.

25 Apr 1942

This long range cannot be protected by minefields. Larger or smaller minefields do not promise success and it would therefore be more suitable to keep the available mines for the important tasks in the northern Black Sea, since no mines can reach that area for the near future.

Admiral Black Sea Ops. Cp. 25 Apr. '42

Burnt Mission Area:

- 0400 Naval ferry barges Nos. 132 and 143 put out from port no. 1 for burns with 16th Harbor Defense Flotilla.
- 1055 Naval ferry barges Nos. 131, 144 and 145 put into place from port no. 1.
- 1350 No harbor and town of Sudzha were bombed by 3 SB 2 planes. They approached from the north and flew off to the east. Altitude 1,000 meters, 4 bombs, no damage.
- 1500 Naval ferry barges Nos. 132 and 145 put into burns with 16th Harbor defense Flotilla. Further passage to Varna is forbidden for 0400 on 26 Apr.

Burnt Mission Area:

The harbor area of Krymopol was bombed during the night of 24/25 Apr. Considerable damage to buildings in the suburbs. The Army repair shop and 13 cars were destroyed by fire, no casualties.

Crimea:

Naval shore commander reported that battery at Cape Evren Baba (south of the Kerch) consisting of three 13 cm. captured guns was ready to fire. With the exception of 1 observation bunker and 1 shelter for the crew, all required buildings were completed. Still no predictor.

Naval shore commander, Crimea reported that preparations had been made to lay the minefields in Kerch Strait with combined operations equipment. The following proposal for employing in Kerch Strait was then submitted to Naval Group South in Pskov. Cp. 201 Rep:

"Subject: Minefields in Kerch Strait.

Date since: Admiral, Black Sea Flts. 68 Chiefs. on 27 April 1942.

The following are proposed for employing in Kerch Strait:

I. Minefields to be laid immediately:

- a. Minefield off Cape Mykolaevski. A D minefield in 3 rows with a gap for passage of small vessels along the eastern flank nearest the shore.

25 May 1942

- b. Anti-landing minefields.
 1. Off Izhish Burnu.
 2. Off the southern part of the town of Kerch - petroleum harbor.
- II. Mines should be prepared for minelaying off Kerch Harbor at short notice. The minefield should be laid by special order when an enemy landing plan is discovered.
- III. Preparations should be made to block the southern entrance to Kerch Strait, building on the minefield already there. Execution will only be possible after the arrival of naval ferry barges, that is to say, after the capitulation of Sevastopol, as the vessels cannot be transferred earlier.
- IV. At present the minefield off the northern entrance to Kerch Strait can be omitted as the limited enemy forces could hardly carry out offensive measures from the Sea of Azov.

Approval request 2."

In teletype 2943 Gklos. of 24 May, Naval Group South gave their consent to this proposal.

Naval Shore Countermeasures Center was then instructed as follows:

- a. The following minefields quoted in sequence of their priority are to be laid:
 1. Minefield in 3 rows off Izhish Burnu beginning in $45^{\circ} 16.2' N$, $36^{\circ} 29.1' E$, course 122° . Mines to be used: 46 T.C. Average distance between mines 15 meters. Depth setting 1.5 meters. Distances between rows 40 meters. To mark the end of the field, a buoy should be laid 100 meters after the last mine on the prescribed course.
 2. Minefield in 2 rows off Izhish Burnu beginning in $45^{\circ} 16.5' N$, $36^{\circ} 26.0' E$, course 325° . Mines to be used: 60 T.D. Average distance between mines 15 meters. Depth setting 1 meter. Distance between rows 30 meters.
 3. Minefield in 3 rows off the southern part of the town of Kerch - petroleum harbor beginning in $45^{\circ} 20.0' N$, $36^{\circ} 28.7' E$, course 360° . Mines to be used: 60 T.D. Average distance between mines 15 meters. Depth setting 1 meter.
 4. Minefield in the northern part of the dredged channel to Kerchskaya iron works in approximately $45^{\circ} 20.6' N$, $36^{\circ} 32.15' E$. Mines to be used: 20 T.D. Depth setting 1 meter.

25 July 1942

5. Preparations should be made to block Kerch Harbor at short notice by air minefield in 2 runs with 60 MDP mines in $45^{\circ} 21.0' N$, $36^{\circ} 29.3' E$, course 014°. Average distance between mines 15 meters. "Don't setting 1 meter."

Re para. 5.: In view of our need to use Kerch Harbor, immediate blocking of the harbor is considered ill-advised. We intend to lay the minefield suddenly when enemy landing intentions are confirmed.

No incidents at the Iron Gates.

Readiness:

Destroyer "Kresti" operational.

The third Italian L-boat will be non-operational until the evening of 26 July.

Land situation:

No reports were received from 1st Inf Regt U.S. or Naval Liaison Officer to 1st Inf Regt U.S. (Units).

26 July 1942

Weather forecast (Constantza):

Winds, force 3, visibility 10 miles, sea 1, temperature $15^{\circ} C$.

Air situation:

Only a few observations were submitted. 40 to 60 small vessels including vessels of about 100 tons were lying in the ports on the Sea of Azov. It is most likely that the enemy escape from Kerch was the main cause of this concentration. Air reconnaissance reports revealed no particular clues that the enemy was preparing to land on the north coast and no antis' reports confirmed any such intentions.

Submarine activity increased slightly compared with the last few days. Radio Intercept Service presumed 2 submarines to be in the southern Black Sea in unidentified positions (no returning to Sevastopol 1 on 23rd relieved). These submarines were distributed over the entire Black Sea area.

No large vessels exceeding destroyers were detected at sea. Heavy shipping in the port of Novorossiisk had reached some 60,000 tons. According to photo graphic evaluation, naval forces were distributed in the main ports on the Caucasus coast and the battleship was lying in Portof. No cruisers were observed in Sevastopol harbor.

Oil Situation:

Supply traffic:

- 0920 2. Civil ferry barges nos. 122, 135, and 137 put in to Odessa with ammunition barge "Ulyanov", "Ural" and "Iron" and the

26 May 1942

Russian naval crews, 1100 boys and their barbers, were ferried away from Leningrad by 1st, 2nd and 3rd Flotillas. At 1720, from Leningrad, two ferries crossed. The boys continued past to the island.

- 0100 2. Group 1, 2nd Flotilla put out from Leningrad for Odessa with steamer "Gerasim". The latter put in to Leningrad at 1025. Group 2, 3rd Flotilla continued past to the south, putting in to Leningrad at 1330.
- 0600 3. Naval ferry barges No. 136 put out from Leningrad for Odessa and put in shore at 1325.

Siberian Area:

- 0930 Cruisers "Ugolev", "Maria" and "Krasnodar" put out from Omsk to the south to escort the Italian tankers "Aldo" and "Galileo" from the Caspian Sea to Novosibirsk.
- 0145 On 26 May 1942, the first boats of 1st Fort Flotilla to be transferred via the river to the Black Sea area, put out from Omsk for Omsk fort where they put in at 1430.
- 1300 Naval ferry barges Nos. 129 and 135 from 1st Fort Flotilla put out from Omsk for Omsk where they arrived at 1715. They will continue to sail west via Kolyma Bay and the Amur River.
- In view of the few mobile wooden fuel receipts for the next 24 hours, the Italian Fort Flotilla was directed to transfer 1000 mt 571 and 573 to Ustka. At 1030 the boats put out from Omsk.
- 1930 Naval ferry barges Nos. 121 and 145 put out from Omsk for Omsk fort. These 2 naval ferry barges were to transport urgent fuel supplies for 1st Fort Flotilla from Omsk fort to Ustka.

South Russian Area:

- 0430 Mine-clearing vessel No. 191 put out from Odessa for a check sweep off Petya Nezh. All mines swept.
- 1300 Mine-clearing vessel No. 191 put in to Odessa.

Naval ferry barges Nos. 127 and 139 transferred the first gun of 3rd Artillery, 11th Coastal Artillery Regiment 145 to the island of Zemblaich.

At 2130 according to report of Naval Fort O. Smirnov, Omsk, a vessel, probably a submarine, was observed off the north coast of Arkhangelskiy Island of Zemblaich. At 1030 it was lowered from the vessel. On the vessel 2 tons of shelled oil, 1st and 2nd batteries, armoured steel scuttles, net current 145 which were exploded there, its name is not known. The barrel or net oils were reported.

During the night of 25/26 May, a naval harbour was again attacked from the air. In the southern part of the 2nd anti-aircraft guns of 3rd Artillery, 11th Coastal Artillery were damaged by two British aircraft flying plane.

26 Aug 1942

Situations:

Naval Force Commander, Crimea reported reported air raids on Sevastopol, Odessa, Kerch and Taman. No damage was reported. In these raids the enemy used a new kind of phosphorus incendiary bomb which at first caused a gas alarm to be given.

Iron Gates: The guardboat "Alzai" made a check sweep from Kozluk to Kisilieve and back. No incidents.

Routiness:

The Bulgarian torp. boat "Srioul" is non-operational for some weeks for repairs and better cleaning.

The Bulgarian motor minesweepers non-operational for some days for better cleaning.

Naval flotilla base N. 144 provisionally non-operational for 2 days.

After routine technical repairs, "Regele Ferdinand" made trial runs. Final repairs will be completed in 3 - 4 days.

MIL situation:

No incidents in the Novorostopol front.

Restriction of the enemy's offensive on Kerch Peninsula where forces were still resisting stubbornly and fanatically in various places.

27 Aug 1942

Weather forecast (Gustavovo):

Cloudy, light fog, visibility 12 miles; temperature 13° C.

Enemy situation:

Yesterday's picture of a certain lull in the activity of enemy naval forces changed rapidly. Obviously, the large vessels above flat-tops were only put in to their bases for a limited time to replenish, while preparations for new assignments will be carried out escort and defense tasks especially off Kerchopol.

Submarines were less active.

From 0043 Commander, Naval Forces and cruisers D and F appeared in radio traffic; messages were coming from the anti-sub area. According to radio intercept records, the German continuously received radio reports from Kerchopol, from 1700.

27 May 1942

Apart from small convoys off the Black Sea coast, there were 2 convoys in the south Crimean area proceeding for Soviet Donbass. Air rec. miss info reported the battleship and 2 destroyers 30 miles south of Odessa, course 320°, full speed, at 1835. At 1900 a secnd report came in of 1 heavy cruiser and 2 destroyers approximately in the same area. All reports concerned the same formation, and, since according to radio intercept reports only cruisers F and D were at sea, the type of vessel must have been confused. It is most unlikely that the battleship did not come in main traffic. On the other hand, the smaller escort vessel might have gone up river to Odessa as a protective measure.

No number of very small vessels was also seen.

No rec. miss info reports were submitted from the So. Fa. V.

Condition:Supply traffic:

- 0610 1. The transport train (4 small ferry barges) with 1000 tons coal from Odessa with equipment for the Danube flotilla put in to port at 1100.
2. The convoy of the 2 Italian tankers "Alberto" and "G. Leni" ran as scheduled. The tugs which were sent by their escort at nightfall left the Danube port en route to Constantza at 1600 with destroyers "Domenico" and "Marecosti".
- 1100 3. Gunboat, 2 mobile flotilla and 4 small boat put out from Odessa with 1000 tons coal for tankers "Le Progress" and tug "Urgency".

From Odessa to the "Prin. Iosif" and small ferry barges Nos. 122, 135, 136 and 137 also joined the convoy.

- 1915 When their convoy had been transferred to gunboats "Stikhi" and "Vitrucescu" and corvette "Bozul", small mobile flotilla put in to port in the Danube with 4 small ferry barges.

The British naval forces escorted the 4 ships as they continued to the south. "Bozul" and "Vitrucescu" intend to put into Vilna; "Prin. Iosif" and the gunboats similarly put in to Constantza.

Bulgarian area:

No incidents.

Romanian area:

- 0600 Two small ferry barges nos. 121 and 145 put into Constantza from Odessa.

27 Nov 1942

In Naval D/F Station, Constantza sent a report that a Russian submarine in an unidentified position had sighted 2 American destroyers, course 115° , speed 19 knots, at 2031 on 26 Nov. These could only be the American destroyers "Laffey" and "Murphy" (see "Supply Traffic", para. 2.) which were proceeding from Constantza to the Bosphorus to meet bombers "Albion" and "Caledon".

This report showed the danger for supply traffic close to the Turkish/Bulgarian coast and stressed the need for the defenses for this supply traffic already requested - see War Diary 25 Nov.

South Russian Area:

1. Supplementary to the report concerning a planned landing operation near Odessa (see War Diary 26 Nov, 2130), Naval Port Commander, Odesa reported that in the morning of 27 Nov 1 probable mine was sighted in $46^{\circ} 1.5' N$, $32^{\circ} 33.5' E$. It can be assumed that the enemy laid mines last night on the supply route from Sevastopol to Odesa from submarines or surface vessels. 16th Harbor Defense Flotilla which had already been sent out at 6 o'clock this morning was then instructed to pull up.

"Mines suspected in $46^{\circ} 1.5' N$, $32^{\circ} 33.5' E$. 16th Harbor Defense Flotilla must examine this area within a radius of 0.5 miles while carrying out the search northward from Admiral, Black Sea Miles. 1551."

Report execution.

Admiral, Black Sea Miles. G 344 Non."

During the night of 26/27 Nov, the harbor district of Mariupol was attacked by planes and at the same time shelled from the sea by a mobile gun, at which fired 2 rounds, presumably 10 cm. shells. Omit it from naval intelligence.

Supplementary report for 26 Nov: Three Russian planes attacked several motor fishing vessels which were en route from Genichesk to Rybachesk. One Croatian Petty Officer and 1 Russian were killed in action and 1 Croatian was wounded. The boat was slightly damaged.

Crimea:

0545 Italian Aborts 1.3 571 and 573 out in the Helles from Sulina. No incidents were reported during passage.

The "Volodarskiy" which was planned near Tavliovskiy has been laid as scheduled.

In radiogram 1906/27/25 Nov 1 Shore Commander, Crimea reported:

"Allow the following German figures to figure of the motor fishing vessels and naval ferries which could be available for "Karpetskiy". Considering the poor endurance of the fishing vessels described by Naval Shore Commander, Ukraine in Miles. 333 Clerks. of 12 days and the latest experiences with them, only 25 at the most could be promised. This number would

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not be sufficient for this operation. Please advise every effort to be made to accurate information so that the Army can make the ferry project. Please advise all other units to do what they can, such as naval flotillas, naval liaison, etc. and even railroads transport them.

Black Sea Fleet, Black Sea Flotilla, 491st.

Deployment of coastal defense flotillas in the Black Sea by which vessels from the Black Sea area will only be possible in a difficult sea. Current situation is to fully needed to protect the country's location in the said direction. However, transfer of these forces would not be possible with the means of our disposal. Transfer of naval ferry boats from the Black Sea to the Donets River is out of the question so long as the situation is still in Russia's hands and the enemy has control of Kerch Strait with fortresses on both banks. At present situation, the only way out to be considered are the following defense flotillas, those will sail now in the Black Sea, i.e. about 12 hours. Considering the importance of operation "Dnepr-IV", it seems advisable to release those 2 flotillas temporarily from their present assignments and to transfer them to the Dnepr River.

Comments by naval districts and ports on the situation in the following telegram (102), in which the 2nd Defense Flotillas, less 2nd Flotilla were directed to consider the best of its availability:

- "1st N.P. Fleet in reply to 1st Naval Commander, Crimea, dated 191:
1. Units of 2nd Naval Defense Flotillas, please tell me whether (about 12 hours) they could get from the Black Sea or after completion of operation "Dnepr-IV". Transfer to the Dnepr has been approved.
 2. Transfer of naval ferry boats is only advisible if they could pass Kerch Strait safely.
 3. Allocation of 2nd Defense Flotilla as a condition of flotilla transport flotilla will be available for "Dnepr-IV".
 4. Naval Commander, Ukraine should report immediately how many units of coastal defense flotillas for transport flotilla will be available for "Dnepr-IV".
 5. Naval Commander, Crimea should report probable date of operation "Dnepr-IV".

Black Sea Fleet, Black Sea Flotilla, 491st.

Also:

Set Immediate return from Odessa 0103/23 hrs sum to 1st N.P. Commander, Crimea.
1st N.P. Commander, Crimea
1st N.P. Commander, Ukraine.
12th Separate corps to
Kiev for up South.

27 May 1942

- "1. Naval Port Commander, Odessa, shall immediately issue "Order" to all operational boats of the Harbor Defense flotilla to Mikolaiev. At first sign of sailing and number of boats.
2. Naval shore Commander, Maritime should transfer such boats from Mikolaiev and boats of Harbor Defense flotilla, Mikolaiev to Kercheksk with all speed to place them at the disposal of Naval Shore Commander, Crimea, for "Operation". Report arrival at Kercheksk as soon as possible.

Airlift, Black Sea area, 332nd.

Iron Notes: Submarine "Bermud" patrolled the river from Orel' to Terek'va. No incidents.

Reconnaisance:

Submarine "Bermud" again operational.

Front Situation:

No incidents in the coastal area of 1st Army R.R. (Rivks). No important fighting on the Donets front with the exception of some lively artillery fire from time to time. Layup of the quarry area in the northwestern corner of Kerch Peninsula continued against gradually lessening enemy resistance.

28 May 1942

Weather forecast (C instance):

Cloudy, force 3, sea 1, slightly overcast, visibility 10 miles, temperature 15° C.

Front Situation:

2 day the route of cruiser D which was escorted by 2 destroyers could be traced quite accurately by means of air reconnaissance and radio intercept reports.

Most likely the cruiser landed troops in Sevastopol during the night of 28/29 May and in return passage was sighted by the Air Force in large grid square 34 and in the following subsidiary squares:

at 0452 - grid square 3436
at 0710 - grid square 5457
at 1525 - grid square 3432 (2 miles southwest of Kerpe).

Drifting speed must therefore have been 21.7 knots, i.e. 228 miles in $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Further transports of this sort can be expected.

At 2450 the Interceptor Service forced cruiser D off the central part of the east coast, but already saw a flight take from it.

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It is therefore obvious that it will be necessary to establish a V/F station in the basin in order to get important positions correctly. An application was therefore sent to Naval Command with request for permission to transfer D/F station, Classed to this place.

Normal maritime and destroyer activities.

INFORMATION:

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 1355 1. Cruisers "Mirandina" and "Ungares" put out from Constantza escorted by gunboats "Stikli" and "Mitroescu". This submarine convoy (see 1st Ferry 27 July) thus remains adrift.
- 1355 2. Cruiser "Nicolae" put out from Constanza with an escort of 4 ships and a supply ship for Nikolaiev and passed Odessa v at 1700.
- Onwards up river course from 4th Air Force, steamer "Mirandina" has to pass up with all speed before completion of loading, and withdrawal of the route of Danube Estuary for anti-submarine escort. 4th Romanian Air Force will be there escort. This was the first of a short supply ship and proceeded to Constantza without escort.
3. Cruisers "Mirale" and "Ungares" put out for the north escorted by destroyers "Dobrogea", "Braile", "Cernescu" and "Popescu". At 0500 on 28 July, the ships should be picked up off Anapa and should then proceed to Chakhot.

DISTRIBUTION AREA:

No instructions.

ROUTINE AREA:

- 0515 Commander, 1st Coastal Detachments in Odessa, Nikolaiev, Ochakov and S. Bessarabia, should be informed that they remain at 1300.
- 0900 Route 2, number 2 will be put from Odessa to the north to check the route as far as the Black Sea. Initially no anti-submarine escort required as far as 1300 hours and then 2nd class escort.
- 2230 Commander, 1st Coastal Detachments in Odessa, Nikolaiev, Ochakov and S. Bessarabia, should be informed for the route as far as 1300 hours and then 2nd class escort.

NOTIFICATION AREA:

1000-1100 hrs. Moscow - 191 search for mines off Leningrad. No anti-submarine.

29 Aug 1942

The remaining 2 units of 1st Guards, Anti Coastal Artillery Detachment 145 were transported to Valmari by naval ferry boat L. 132.

During the night of 27/28 Aug, the harbor district of Kerch was again raided. Three naval ferry boats were damaged by splinters. 12 casualties.

Reports of possible fire at oil terminal Krasnoye were machinegunned. One Russian was killed by splinters, 4 men were seriously and 3 slightly wounded. Firedart at dawn.

During the night of 27/28 Aug, the town district of Berdiansk was bombed twice. 11 dead.

Ordnance:

Simferopol was reportedly attacked from the air. 11 times reported. Damage to naval installations.

Land Situation:

No incidents reported from coastal area of 1st Guards Div. (Tanks).

No important flights by the Germans' front. Continuous shipping traffic to and from Sevastopol might have been transporting material and troops. Because of an artificial smoke screen and fighter defenses, exact data could not be observed.

On Horn Peninsula morning-up operations were conducted as scheduled in the quarry area of Malaya Salda.

29 Aug 1942

Weather forecast (Gustavoz):

Heavily, no cloud, slight fog over the sea, visibility on land 6 km., temperature 17° C.

Air situation:

The Air Force reported only a few reconnaissance results, presumably owing to the small number of planes engaged.

In the other land, no traffic revealed considerable activity of enemy naval forces. Eight cruisers D and F and 7 destroyers were detected, while cruiser U was also assumed to be at sea.

Cadm-2 Fleet is believed to be putting up from Batumi, but it is not yet certain if other to do toward the battleship.

Naval air activity was remarkably lively: 10 were reported. Their positions which were not indicated occurred entirely from the Caucasus coast as far as the western Black Sea.

Patrol forces were busy in the Sevastopol area and off the Caucasus coast. Most probably the Naval activity of enemy naval forces is connected with the transport ship of relief residents to Sevastopol.

29 May 1942

Com. situation:U.S. forces front:

No incidents.

Japanese areas:

- 0400 Commander, "Duke" flotilla has been alerted from Muraz for Ochakov to pick up the scuttled and damaged ships planned for capture. At 1000 they put him to Ochakov.
- 0500 The escort of the northern blockade convoy consisting of the steamers "Ulyanov" and "Urdele" has been sighted by Group 2, Danube Flotilla to the southwest of the mouth of the river.
- 0925 The commander of Group 2 reported:
"Submarine attack at $46^{\circ} 31.5' N$, $30^{\circ} 52' E$ "
- 0957 A radio message received from Naval Economic Affairs Office, Odessa: "At 0955 steamer "Sudina" was sunk off Ulyanovsk. Air Commander has been informed. Russian mark color worn."
- 1003 The new commander sent the full radio message:
"Steamer "Sudina" torpedoed by a submarine. Hit rudder and side of hull slightly." In view of these reports the southern blockade was stopped by the following radiogram:
- 1100 "Maritime Law No. 3 which said convoy must return to Ochakov-North."
- 1106 A radio message received from Naval Economic Affairs Office, Odessa: "Order to cancel navigation of mines, less 10 miles closed to shipping. The southern convoy has returned to Odessa. No further orders."
- 1121 Commander, "Duke", Duke flotilla reported:
"At 0925 "Sudina" was attacked by a submarine from the starboard quarter. Two deck and bridge officers were killed by Corporal Cherny, unit 7 21020. An explosion 300 meters. Crew rescued. 4 dead, several wounded. "Urdele" proceeded at maximum speed to Ochakov under command of minefield fleet Captain Gunnermaster "Spiner."
- 1302 "Urdele" put into Ochakov without incident.
The cause of sinking of steamer "Sudina" is now not clear.
One day later
 a. sunk by a torpedo from a submarine
 b. or have struck a magnetic mine.

29 May 1942

In favor of the沉没 by a submarine was the statement of the Air Force man (see 1121).

The following facts are in favor of sinking "Gulina" (this could only have been in accordance with a notice firing device as the steamer were proceeding with anti-sub escort):

1. The column of water was reported such as is usual in a torpedo hit.
2. The periscope and rifle trace were only sighted by 1 Air Force man whose judgment cannot be accepted as reliable.
3. In a smooth sea, the place of sinking (close to the coast in water 18 meters deep) would have made it very difficult for a submarine to attack.

At present no accurate statements can be made on the cause of the loss of "Gulina": Both possibilities have to be considered. The full sailing instructions were therefore sent via Naval Special Duties Detachment:

1. Anti-submarine operations to be carried out in Odessa Bay.
2. Mine-exploding vessel . . 191 to sweep the route.

In order to carry out these assignments, Group Murmansk, 1st Special Duties Flotilla (ships employed in transportation) and mine-clearing vessel No. 191 have been subordinated for operational matters to Special Duties Detachment and Donut Flotilla respectively.

The following orders were also given: transports en passage from Burgaz to Ochakov must in future have an anti-submarine escort as well as an anti-mine escort. For this purpose 1st Special Duties Flotilla will be employed in 2 groups, 1 stationed in Ochakov and the other in Burgaz.

1343 See Transportation Office, Odessa reported:
"No "Gulina":

Casualties: 3 dead, 3 men of engine room crew seriously wounded, 7 engineers in Air Force hospital, Odessa, 1 civil engineer appointed to "Arkadia" slightly wounded, will remain with Naval Port Commander, Odessa at present. The crew of 41 men will be transferred to Constantza by Romanian Naval Detachment. 14 Air Force soldiers, 4 sailors, 2 soldiers of the anti-tank units and 1 supervisor will be sent to Constantza by Sea Transportation Office, Odessa. 35 of the crews of big oil ferries will be sent to Nikolaev by Sea Transportation Office, Odessa. Inform Construction Battalion 86, Constantza."

1215 Naval ferry-boats Nos. 122, 126, 135, 136 and 137 put in to Gulina. Anti-submarine operations off Cape Burnas and check sweep as far as Burgaz as scheduled. No incidents.

29 May 1942

At 1400 and 1700 respectively, destroyers "Regina Maria" and "Carasesti" with "Arresti" put into Constantza after escorting motor vessel "Galata" and steamer "Mircea" as far as Dunav.

- 1900 Naval ferry barges Nos. 121 and 145 put out from Constantza with fuel for 1st Flotilla in Lake Nechet. Completion of this assignment will only be possible when 16th Harbor Defense Flotilla (now lying in Ochakov) has examined the route off Marikitzi Bay and from there to Lake Nechet. 16th Harbor Defense Flotilla was instructed to carry out this task as soon as possible.
- 2200 Naval ferry barges Nos. 136, 138 and 144 put out from Sulina for Clessen.

South Russian Area:

- 0425 The transport group (4 new 1 ferry barges) put out from Ochakov for Clessen after unloading the equipment for the 16th Flotilla. They put in there at 0800.

Naval Port Commander, Odessk reported that the 3 units of 1st Battery, Army Coastal Artillery Detachment 145 on the island of Dzharyulgach were ready for gun firing practice.

During the night of 28/29 May, the Larin District of Kirovograd was raided again. The transhipment pier in the main harbor was heavily damaged.

- 0030 Berdyansk was shelled by 2 Russian motor torpedo boats which put up an artificial smoke screen and broke off when our batteries replied. Naval Shore Commander, Ukraine reported that on 29 May all the vessels at sea were reportedly burned and each accounted by enemy 21 liters. About 1000 solid projectiles. On the vessels, there were no casualties.

Cri. ea:

During the night of 28/29 May, Svetlovodsk, Siversk, Melitopol, Saratovsk and Lita were bombed repeatedly. One of the 2 Italian planes lying in Lita was slightly damaged by splinters. Otherwise no damage or casualties reported.

Romania:

Naval ferry barge No. 144 operational.

Motor minesweepers Flotilla 4, 8 and 10 non-operational. Cause not yet reported but presumably on fire trials. Duration of repairs will be reported later.

Caused slight cylinder damage, one of the Italian aircrafts will be non-operational for 2 days.

Final Situation:

No important fighting was reported by 11th Army HQ. on the western front.

The remnants of the enemy forces are still defending themselves in the quarry area of Achim Ushka.

30 May 1942

Weather forecast (constraint):

Cloudy, no clouds, visibility 10 miles, slight haze, temp. creature
15° C.

Current situation:

After the lively activity of naval forces reported yesterday suddenly decreased. In the evening only several submarines and probably cruiser S with C-in-C Fleet board were detected in river traffic in the southeastern Black Sea area.

No Air Force submitted no reconnaissance reports.

Own situation:

River traffic:

From 0600 4 naval ferry boats of 1st special duties Flotilla hitherto employed in transportation between Odessa and Kirov were all called to the up river, the 10 naval ferry boats were detailed as anti-submarine escorts:

To Ochakov: Naval ferry boats nos. 125, 128, 135 and 138.

To Tulcea: Naval ferry boats nos. 133, 134 and 144.

To Sulina: Naval ferry boats nos. 126, 135 and 137.

Convey traffic will be suspended until the area between Ochakov and Odessa is searched for magnetic mines by mine-clearing vessel No. 191 which will be escorted by naval ferry boats due to submarine danger.

Bulgarian area:

No incidents.

Romanian area:

- 0545 Naval ferry boats nos. 121 and 125 (transport fuel for 1st P-B at Flotilla, see War Diary 29 May) put in to Sulina. At 1000 they continued to Odessa. As the center engine of naval ferry boat no. 121 broke down, naval ferry boat no. 122 was detailed for escort.
- 0715 Naval ferry boats nos. 126 and 137 took a commanding squad of the Air Force to the isle of Pilnisi and then put in to Sulina again at 0630.
- 1300 Commander, 7 mile Flotilla and Gr up 1 put in to Tulcea from Ochakov route for the next convey.

South Russian area:

Mine-clearing vessel 191 put in to Ochakov from Nikolaiev. During the check sweep off Berdichev carried out an passage, no mines were swept.

30 May 1942

At 0447 in the morning at 1608 1 plane raided Stadovsk. In these attacks 6 bombs were dropped, no bomb exploded.

During the night of 29/30 May, a few planes bombed Librijevci. No casualties or damage reported.

During the night of 29/30 May, the town was heavily shelled and the town was also shelled from the land front. The naval forces and civilian population suffered casualties. Damage to naval property or vehicles was reported.

Crimso:

From 2050 on 29 May to 0400 on 30 May, Lieutenant Nelli, Commander, Italian Naval Command, carried out his first operation with the only aircraft at his disposal in the area south of Cape Kersnese. No enemy convoy traffic was observed; only 1 enemy patrol boat was sighted which did not notice the Italian boat.

Naval Share Commander, Crimso reported repeated air raids on Simeferopol, Kertch, Kerch sit and that rice. He failed to naval installations.

During the night of 29/30 May, 1 enemy vessel shelled the town of Kerch. 15 rounds were fired, causing no military damage.

Iron Gates: Check sweeps by warships "Gornji" and "Uranje". No incidents.

Readiness:

Guard at "Uranje" operational from 29 May.

Italian HQ at 1100 573 operational from 30 May.

Local Situation:

On the coast, 1 front several strong enemy reconnaissance thrusts were repulsed.

No important incidents in the coastal area of 1st Army R.C. (Tanks).

31 May 1942

Weather forecast (Inst. Metz):

Clouds, force 2, sea 1, sky almost entirely overcast, visibility 20 km., temperature 16° C.

Enemy Situation:

Report from naval submarine activity, no reports were submitted concerning enemy naval forces. Air reconnaissance reports were submitted.

The enemy was assumed to be remaining in the bases.

31 May 1942

Our Situation:Bulgarian/Turkish Area:

No incidents.

South Russian Area:

- 0845 Naval ferry barges s. 121, 122 and 145 (fuel transportation for 1st R-Bat Fltilla) put in to class from Sulina. As the center engine of naval ferry barge No. 121 had broken down, her cargo was transferred to naval ferry barge No. 133 which with naval ferry barge No. 145 proceeded to Odessa at 1600. They put in at 1945.
- 1015 Br. Battery, Army Coastal Artillery Detachment 145 (Kievavks, n rth coast of Kerchitzki Bay) reported half-sunken submarine at a range of 7,500 meters. Naval Port Commander, Sevastopol requested air reconnaissance from Air Commander, South. Results not yet reported.

Although it was most unlikely that a half-sunken submarine could be observed accurately from the shore to this range, it may have been a submarine because the enemy has already沉没ed in this area several times and tried to land groups of partisans and agents (see War Diary 26 May).

- 1015 Kerch s. att cke' from the air. Slight damage to buildings and minor casualties among the civilian population.

Transportation to and from Poltava was suspended until further notice when Nov 1. S. are Commander, Ukraine reported continuous fighter attacks dur in the last few days.

Crisis:

- 1000 One Italian ME-109 att fr m 1 lt. n o sea rescue mission reportedly Air Commander, South. One Russian ruler flying with documents was salvaged. With att further details, Naval Shre Commander, Crimea reported air raids on Smolensk, Kerch, Bulgaria, Holt and Tashkent.

Local Situation:

No direct fighting in the Sevastopol front. There was lively shelling traffic fr m and to Sevastopol, us ly screened by artificial smoke.

No incidents in the coastal areas of 1st Army R.A. (Dnipro).

Losses:

No r minosmeters of 4 and 8 min o or biplane.

(Signed)

Fleti

(Unwritten in nature possibly
T. L. G. C. M.)

APPENDIX I

Annex to War Diary 18 May

Discussion between Admiral, Black Sea, Com. Crim. ns
30 May Com. Crim. ns 13 May 1912

- A. Personal report of Chief of Staff in the situation in the Black Sea area:

Up to now almost all our transports have run safely at delays. With the exception of one small town, Kerch Peninsula has been captured. Army operations have developed as scheduled, but still have not influenced the situation at sea.

Outer area: The mission is safe in port, i.e. (current from the flanks).

Tasks of the Navy in connection with current operations:

Fitting out of the fishing vessels in the port of Novy for transport assignments to the north coast. Crossing of Kerch Strait for own landing operations. Naval ferry barges are best suited for this crossing. Biggest difficulty is the obstacle. During the last few days, several enemy vessels, submarine and destroyers have been located in the broad west of Sevastopol, presumably protecting mission transports. It is urgent that we attack Sevastopol. For this purpose, a mine-free route must be cleared from Ochakiv-Karkiniiski Bay-Skalkovsk-Izmail. Preparations are under way. Time required: 10 to 14 days.

Further preparations for employment of light forces against Crimea:

I. Reconstruction of Ochakiv base is under way and will probably be completed at the end of May.

II. Aviation fuel has been stocked in Yalta and Melitopol (20 tons in each place).

III. Equipment for the Italian aircraft was loaded onto 3 naval ferry barges at Constantza which put out at 0300 on 18 May via Balaklava for Sevastopol. Lieutenant Giebel was in charge.

- B. Survey of the naval situation by Comander, Naval Special Duties Detachment:

In the air, the enemy has operated with submarines and planes in the western Black Sea. Presumably, the planes are used for aerial reconnaissance.

The enemy submarines operated in fixed positions, observed off Feodosia, Constantza (within the closed area), Taman and Burgas and in the Black Sea.

According to reports from Naval D/P Section, the submarines acted in air reconnaissance reports from Sevastopol. On 7 and 8 May, our convoys were attacked from the air.

During the last few days, the weather was favorable for our operations because it was unfavorable for Russian air reconnaissance.

Military operations in the Crimea have an influence upon Russian air operations.

Usually, the Russian surface forces have not been engaged against us. According to radio traffic, however, cruisers have been detected several times (cruisers A, D and E).

On Operations:

Supplies required in the number of stevers available. Weather conditions are very important as the small number minesweepers of Don Flotilla can only operate in sea up to force 3. This port has very favorable for carrying out transportation.

Regular checks of route Green are impossible.

During return and return passage, escort vessels are always used to check the routes and they proceed with care.

The routes and tonnage will be made known to the Italians. Charts will always be available.

Close cooperation and coordination of tasks have been arranged between Naval Special Duties Detachment and the Italians.

Harbor maps and special plans (minefields) will be given to the Italians and they will be informed of future German operations.

The following operations are in progress:

- a. Yesterday evening, a two day survey put up from Bulim to Nikolskoy (to Union Station - intentions for construction of railroad).
- b. This afternoon will carry out from Constantza. It will be picked up by Don Flotilla at 1000 tomorrow morning - 19 May, 1942.
- c. One small naval convoy from Sevastopol to Bulim.
- d. Preparation: Survey of 2 tankers from the Black Sea to Constantza tomorrow for 23 May. These 2 tankers are to make several runs to the Pireaus. During passage to Istanbul, radio operators and communications personnel wear civilian clothes. At 1100, Istanbul will receive directions for this operation to travel up south.

C. Comments of Commandant Karpov:

Survey of these 2 surveys:

Principles of the main problem. The Russian base at Sevastopol is just larger for our operations. It would be desirable to make at least diversionary attacks in Sevastopol. Later on, offensive operations against Sevastopol should be carried out in cooperation with the Army and Air Force, employing all naval forces available. Russian naval forces and Russian supply and patrol vessels should be attacked.

Preparations for later offensive operations against Sevastopol should therefore be our first consideration.

- Comander Minelli was requested to give information on the intentions of the Italian Fleet, U-boats and aircrafts.
1. When will the vessels be transferred to the Crimea?
 2. What support can be given by the Germans for this assault (air reconnaissance, escort vessels, interceptors and naval aircraft as assistance)?

D. Commander Minelli answer:

Comander Minelli has selected suitable bases in the south coast of Crimea. The best bases are: Kalamita and Feodosia.

The U-boats will first be sent to the Crimea. Reasons: They are the first units which will be ready for combat and are able to proceed to the Crimea direct (range 250 miles from Constantza).

Radius of action 400 miles, best cruising speed 30 knots. The U-boats will be set successful to Kalamita after the enemy's surprise. Arrival is planned for 1200 on 19 July.

Possible evacuation plan:

Instead of Constantza, Kalamita should be the point of departure, firing a short warning shot before setting off in a decoy course. The weather is very favorable at present, therefore put up as soon as possible.

Comander Minelli agrees with the proposal to steer a decoy course northwardly course.

Details of execution should be established in direct cooperation between Naval Special Operations Department and Comander Minelli (instructions to leave the way, escort forces, naval signal words - S., T., R., air reconnaissance). The Indians have clear instructions. Set realistic procedure. Set this will be settled with the communications officer. Const 1 authrities in the Crimea should be informed of the transfer of the U-boats. Determine code word. German reconnaissance signals.

Question to Comander Minelli:

Instructions and intentions of the U-boats to discuss directly with Naval Fleet Commander, Crimea?

ANSWER:

Yes, close cooperation with Naval Staff Commander, General and
representatives of Admiralty, click to.

For this purpose, use liaison station in Malte. Hospital
Lieutenant Kravent Malte is communications officer to the
arranged by Senior Communications Officer).

Italian Fleet Submarines:

The fleet submarines will be ready to go within 10 days.
Then at first they will have to exercise off Constantinople
Sofia within and outside the minefield zone.

Transfer to Malte: At first, let all 3 only for experience,
examine whether Malte is a suitable base. Check sweep of the
transfer route will be necessary. Route from Balaclava to Klar-
ivka (Kirkinitzki Bay easy to check). As far as Sevastopol
naval ferry boats will escort the vessels. In the afternoon
they shall proceed from Malte to Malte if the weather
is suitable. If Malte is satisfactory, transfer the other
submarines to this place, otherwise relieve the 3 submarines.
The longer route seems a great risk.

Social Tasks:

Between 20 and 25 Aug., transfer to Simferopol or Kerch Strait.
They are to be followed mainly against Sevastopol as it is
expected that the battle for Kerch Strait will be finished by
then. Operations to be made from Malte.

Objectives of Commandant Admiral:

Social tasks must also have to be employed in defense of Kerch
Strait against Russian penetration. For this purpose, Krish-
Tsurun would be a very suitable base.

As to later tasks cooperation with 11th Army... will be
necessary with the development of offensive operations.

Commander Loffelli will proceed to the Crimea with the Italian
troops.

Written report on plans to be submitted by Commander Loffelli.

APPENDIX II

according to the Diary 18 AM

Translation

Background

In accordance with the instructions of Admiral, each division on the basis of past experiences during my official visit to the Crimea and the Black Sea the vessels of both flotillas will be arranged as follows:

1. Boats:

If the weather permits, the 4 boats will be transferred direct from Constantza to Yalta tomorrow. The boats will cross their courses and speed so that they will lie east of the meridian of Cape Tarich to dawn and will arrive in Yalta about 0500.

In Yalta the boats will refuel and lie in readiness for a night operation of Sevastopol or, depending on the situation, for an operation in the area between Kerch and Chersones. In the latter case, the boats will first proceed to Kerch for fuel.

Provided that weather conditions permit, I shall support large operations by employing the boats as much as possible to take advantage of the fact that the enemy is not attacking the boats in the Crimean area and in the favorable moon phase.

2. In line of submarine:

Before their employment, the submarines will require some exercises which should last about 10 days.

After completion of their exercises and when Tarhankut bay and the entrances to the harbors on the north coast of Crimea have been secured for mines, the first 3 sm. submarines will put out for the Crimea. As the direct route is too long the boats will first be transferred to the fleet. They will proceed along the coast to the north and have a day's rest in one of the ports (Aug 2 if possible).

From the port where they will refuel, they will be transferred to Yalta and one vessel will operate in the Sevastopol area against Crimean forces for 10 days.

After their transfer, when the crews indicate their necessity for rest, they will be employed according to the situation.

After the use of their experiences during the operation, I shall send the 3 submarines back to Constantza after some operations (10 to 14 days) and replace by the other 3 submarines or station all 6 permanently in the ports on the Crimea or the Black Sea.

3. Special Boats:

Assuming that the offensive operations of the navy . . . on Kerch Peninsula will be over before the arrival of the special boats on the Crimea, I plan to employ these boats from a harbor on the south coast of the Crimea (Foros) as close as possible to Sevastopol.

As the special boats are landed in trucks and can be used quickly, they can be employed according to the situation even in the Kerch Strait area.

I shall issue further details when Lieutenant Commander Hodder has arrived in the Crimea and as soon as I know when the special boats will be ready for operation.

10 Nov 1942.

Fleetville Commander
(Lieut) C. J. Hodder
Commander

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Naval Group with
Serial No. 3529 Op.

9 July, 1942

To:

"Naval with Command, Naval Staff (twice).

Copy to:

Admiral, Black Sea.

Subject: War diary of Admiral, Black Se. 16 - 31 Aug, 1942.

Reference: Admiral, Black Se Serial No. Codes. Op. 814 A I of
11 July, 1942.

Comments on War diary of Admiral, Black Se.
16 - 31 Aug, 1942

"Marmara Area", 16 Aug, 1942:

In the operational area provided for about "Gulfmud", there is only slight enemy traffic, but presumably anti-aircraft defenses are also weak there. This plan is only adviseable because the submarine is not trained for operations in strait-like defensible areas and in any case she is probably not technically very suitable.

"Dardanelles Area", 20 Aug, 1942:

By order of Admiral, Black Sea, the western operational borderline for the Italian Aborts was laid down as the meridian of Cape Tarkh. However, on the end it was decided that operation in sections of Tarkh would prove most successful. In my opinion the latter area would provide more success at present.

"Mediterranean Area", 25 Aug, 1942:

Concentration of anti-submarine defense in the offshore waters by Admiral, Black Sea is urgently necessary. I approached naval attaché, Istanbul with the request to stress to Turkish authorities the need for Turkish participation in anti-submarine operations for the protection of Turkish shipping within Turkish territorial waters. I am quite aware that, with Turkey's present political attitude, efficient measures cannot be demanded from the Turks.

"South Russia Area", 25 Aug, 1942:

All efforts by Group to reinforce anti-aircraft protection for these important industrial and logistic installations in Novorossiysk have failed.

"Crimea", 25 Aug, 1942:

In my opinion there are NO mines and not an AD minefield.

"Crimea", 27 Aug, 1942:

Since in preparation the request of Kirovograd... is only a general preparation, I have stopped the transfer of harbor defense flotillas, "deserted" fleet now to the port of Leningrad. Replacement of the poor fishing vessels by a number of rubber boats from Leningrad will be arranged.

"Heavy Bit Traffic", 26 Nov. 1942:

I refused to transfer the 4/F station from "Gardiner" to "Mackinac" just now because at present the western Black Ice is still the War's focal point. I have never requested a fourth 4/F installation for "Mackinac".

"Heavy Bit Traffic", 26 Nov. 1942:

In giving the transfer of "Armadia" without anti-free escort at the urgent request of 4th Lie. Mac, I remind that the responsibility remains with the naval command which issued the sailing order.

(Signed) Schuster.
Chief of Staff.

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